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24 September 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Biological Warfare Intelligence

1. This is an interim report in response to your memorandum of 16 August on the inadequacy of intelligence regarding Soviet Biological Warfare.

2. We are needing the collection activities that are subject to our control through the Inter-Agency Priorities Committee. We are also seeking a higher priority for this type of information from USCIB. Any improvement in research activities will have to be done in the Department of Defense, which has the primary responsibility for such activities. We will supplement this by stepping up our research activities in the basic sciences and this may afford some help. We are also bringing to the attention of the IAC the noted deficiencies in this field, and are asking everybody to cooperate in an effort to improve both collection and research activities. We will follow through on this to the best of our ability.

3. There is, however, one difficulty -- our total abilities are limited, and if higher priority in covert collection in this field is decided upon, it will compete with other requirements now established by the Department of Defense as vital to early warning responsibilities. Within this limitation we will do the very best we can and will give you a more complete report in about a month.

OSI/IDB:boc
Rewritten: O/DCI:WBSmith/dr
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WALTER B. SMITH
Director

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MEMORANDUM FOR: General Smith

You will recall that on 24 September you replied to Secretary Lovett's letter of 16 August on Biological Warfare (Tab 1) with an interim report (Tab 2) and indicated that a more detailed report would be forthcoming in a month. Such a report is attached as Tab A. Mr. Becker recommends your signature.

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OCT 23 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
THROUGH : Deputy Director/Intelligence
SUBJECT : Biological Warfare Intelligence

1. Attached at TAB A is a proposed memorandum to the Secretary of Defense in further reply to his memorandum of 16 August on the inadequacy of intelligence concerning Soviet biological warfare (BW) activities.

2. Your attention is invited to the decision of the Defense agencies not to raise the priority for covert collection of BW intelligence as expressed at the meetings of the IPC on 10 September (see TAB B) and the IAC on 8 October (see TAB C).

3. Several months will be required to provide BW specialists for permanent assignment to [redacted]. It is recommended that present plans for such assignment be carried out even in the event of a reduction in the [redacted].

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[redacted]
Acting Assistant Director
Scientific Intelligence

Attachments:

TAB A
TAB B
TAB C

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